

Child Protection



Fraserburgh South Park School and Nursery

March 2023

CHILD PROTECTION OVERVIEW

This document is intended to be a brief overview. All staff should familiarise themselves with the detailed policies and guidance on the authority website, as mentioned below.

South Park Primary School and Nursery follow Aberdeenshire Council Guidelines with regard to Child Protection. In this policy statement key information is included for all adults working with children in our school.

Detailed policies and procedures, from Aberdeenshire Council, can be found on the Girfec Aberdeenshire Website (<http://www.girfec-aberdeenshire.org/>) as well as key Child Protection Policy, Procedures and Guidelines being found here:

[Additional Support Needs \(ASN\) Aberdeenshire, Inclusion, Equity and Wellbeing \(asn-aberdeenshire.org\)](#)

Introduction

Child protection is the responsibility of all who work with children and families regardless of whether or not they come into direct contact with children. All workers must be fully informed of their responsibilities in respect of keeping children safe. All services working with children, young people and families are expected to identify and consider the wellbeing of children and to share concerns appropriately.

It is recognised that physical and emotional safety provides a foundation for wellbeing and healthy development. The purpose of this document is to provide a brief overview of Child Protection information. It is expected that all staff familiarise themselves with the detailed Aberdeenshire Council Guidelines, formats and training materials which can be found here:

[Additional Support Needs \(ASN\) Aberdeenshire, Inclusion, Equity and Wellbeing \(asn-aberdeenshire.org\)](#)

These guidelines are based on [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014](#). The National Guidance describes responsibilities and expectations for all involved in protecting children in Scotland. It outlines how statutory and non-government agencies should work together with parents, families and communities to prevent harm and to protect children from abuse and neglect. Everyone has a role in protecting children from harm.

What is Child Protection?

Child Protection refers to the processes involved in consideration, assessment and planning of required action, together with the actions themselves, where there are concerns that a child may be at risk of harm. Child Protection procedures (see Part 3) are initiated when police, social work or health professionals determine that a child may have been abused or may be at risk of significant harm.

The Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) Approach

Child Protection is part of a continuum of collaborative duties. The GIRFEC approach promotes and supports planning in the way that best safeguards, supports and promotes the wellbeing of children, and ensures that any action to meet needs is taken at the earliest, appropriate time to prevent acute needs arising.

Child Protection processes fall at the urgent end of the continuum of services which include prevention and early intervention. The GIRFEC approach underpins both preventative and child protection processes. This includes an identified point of contact to provide early support, advice and access to services, a shared approach to assessment and consideration of wellbeing, and a shared response to identified needs, included planning for children across services where needed.

What is Child Abuse and Child Neglect?

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment. Abuse or neglect may involve inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be maltreated at home; within a family or peer network; in care placements; institutions or community settings; and in the online and digital environment.

Physical abuse

Physical abuse is the causing of physical harm to a child or young person. Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child they are looking after.

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is persistent emotional ill treatment that has severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development. 'Persistent' means there is a continuous or intermittent pattern which has caused, or is likely to cause, significant harm. Emotional abuse is present to some extent in all types of ill treatment of a child, but it can also occur independently of other forms of abuse.

Sexual abuse

Child sexual abuse (CSA) is an act that involves a child under 16 years of age in any activity for the sexual gratification of another person, whether or not it is claimed that the child either consented or assented. Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at or in the production of indecent images, in watching sexual activities, using sexual language towards a child, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a person under 18 into sexual activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact. It can also occur through the use of technology.

For those who may be victims of sexual offences aged 16-17, child protection procedures should be considered. These procedures must be applied when there is concern about the sexual exploitation or trafficking of a child. Further information and resources can be found on the Aberdeenshire GIRFEC website

Criminal Exploitation

Criminal exploitation refers to the action of an individual or group using an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, or for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator. Violence or the threat of violence may feature. It may involve gangs and organised criminal networks. Sale of illegal drugs may be a feature.

Child trafficking

Child trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt, exchange or transfer of control of a child under the age of 18 years for the purposes of exploitation. Transfer or movement can be within an area and does not have to be across borders. Further information and resources can be found on the Aberdeenshire GIRFEC Website

Neglect

Neglect is the 'persistent' (meaning there is a pattern which may be continuous or intermittent) failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs which is likely to result in a serious impairment of the child's health or development. There can also be single instances of neglectful behaviour that cause significant harm. The GIRFEC SHANARRI indicators set out the essential wellbeing needs. Neglect of any or all of these can impact on healthy development. Further information and resources can be found on the Aberdeenshire Neglect Toolkit

Female genital mutilation

This extreme form of physical, sexual and emotional assault upon girls and women involves partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. Further information and resources can be found on the Aberdeenshire GIRFEC Website.

Forced marriage

A forced marriage is a marriage conducted without the full and free consent of both parties and where duress is a factor. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual, and emotional abuse. Forced marriage is both a child protection and adult protection matter. Child protection processes will be considered up to the age of 18.

Responding to Concerns/Child Protection Protocols

South Park Primary and Nursery will use Aberdeenshire Council's Guidelines to respond to concerns with regard to a child's wellbeing or safety. All of these guidelines can be accessed here:

[Additional Support Needs \(ASN\) Aberdeenshire, Inclusion, Equity and Wellbeing \(asn-aberdeenshire.org\)](https://www.asn-aberdeenshire.org)

Staff should familiarise themselves with the guidelines and enhance their knowledge and training on an on-going basis.

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Procedure at South Park Primary

It is EVERY person's responsibility to keep children safe from harm or neglect. Any member of staff who notices anything concerning with a child, no matter how small, must report it to the Head Teacher immediately. If the Head Teacher is not available, then it must be reported to the leadership team. When a concern is reported, South Park School's Leadership team will respond to the concern following Authority Guidelines.

The designated child protection officer in school is Miss Carol Irvine, Head Teacher. Any concerns must be reported to her. If she is unavailable, please contact one of the Depute Head Teachers.

All staff must share any concerns right away, with no delay.

When the Head Teacher/Depute Head Teacher has responded to the concerns and actioned these in accordance with Authority guidance, staff involved with the child will be made aware of any relevant follow up information. The Head Teacher will chronology the outcome.

Role of Staff

Every member of staff working with children has a responsibility to:

- Help keep children and young people safe and well.
- Be vigilant for signs that children and young people may need support, are at risk, or are suffering from harm and/or neglect.
- Immediately contact the Child Protection Co-Ordinator when they have concerns or hear allegations.
- Contribute to taking action or supporting children and young people following identifications of concerns.
- Ensure their work is carried out in ways that prevent harm to children and young people and maintain safety and wellbeing of all involved.
- Attend establishment based child protection briefings and training and record this on a suitable Professional Learning Record e.g. MyGTCS or My SSSC

Staff Training

Staff training is guided by Aberdeenshire Council's Child Protection Professional Learning Guidance.

Staff should ensure that they access all training materials which are at the appropriate knowledge and skill level for the role they are in. Generic training for all will be as follows:

- All staff will receive training on August in-service on UNCRC and Child Protection
- All staff will complete an Aldo refresher in February in-service day
- All staff will receive reference documents in August regarding Child Protection protocols and what to look out for.

Guidance on staff training can be found here:

[Child-Protection-in-Education-Professional-Learning-Framework.pdf \(asn-aberdeenshire.org\)](#)

Staff should record any concerns that children share with them immediately to the CP Officer, and if unavailable, the SLT. It should be recorded accurately. No leading questions should be

used. Staff should note in detail any injuries that are shared/visible (no photographs). Staff must make children aware that this information will be shared to keep them safe. Remember - ANY concerns should be reported immediately.

Contact Details:

Fraserburgh & Surrounding Area Children and Families Team

Duty or Team Manager

14 Saltoun Square

Fraserburgh

AB43 9DA

Tel. 01467 537111

Emergency Out of Hours Number: 0845 840 0070